



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St Paul District

APPLICANT: Anoka County
Highway
Department

Public Notice

ISSUED: November 7, 2001
EXPIRES: December 7, 2001

REFER TO: 02-00606-TJF

SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act

1. APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO discharge fill material into about 6.39 acres of wetland during the reconstruction of a 2.5 mile long segment of County State Aid Highway 52 (CSAH 52 or Radisson Road) in the City of Blaine, Minnesota.

2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: 1440 Bunker Lake Road NW
Anoka, MN 55304

Agent: Mr. Kevin Cullen
TKDA and Associates
1500 Piper Jaffray Plaza
444 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101-2140

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located primarily in Sections 21 and 27, T. 31N., R. 23W., Anoka County, Minnesota. The approximate UTM coordinates are Zone 15, North 4999300, East 484800.

BACKGROUND: This permit application seeks authorization for a portion of a larger project to reconstruct and upgrade about 5.6 miles of CSAH 52. The entire project extends from Main Street south to, and including, the interchange with I35W. Previously the Corps approved the northern 2.8 mile long phase (Part 1) of the project. The current application would cover Parts 2 and 3 of the project between CSAH 12 to 95th Avenue NE. Part 4 essentially involves the reconstruction of the I35W interchange and the construction of a replacement park and ride facility. Design and mitigation details for Part 4 have yet to be finalized.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT PROJECT: The County proposes to upgrade this portion of CSAH 52 to address an increase in accidents and a decrease in traffic flow due to deficient horizontal and vertical curves, increasing traffic volumes and inadequate turning lanes and shoulders. To improve safety the plan includes a raised median, turn lanes and additional through lanes. The project would result in a 4 lane divided rural or urban roadway. In addition, an 8 foot wide pedestrian path would be built along the west and south side of the roadway.

QUANTITY, TYPE, AND AREA OF FILL: It is estimated that a total of about 6.39 acres of wetland would be filled. This typically involves a narrow encroachment into the wetland during widening and resloping. Construction along Part 2 would encroach into 7 wetlands

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for a total of 0.67 acre. Part 3 would impact 18 wetlands for a total of 5.72 acres. The amount of fill material is estimated at 3,300 cubic yards for Part 2 and 18,000 cubic yards for Part 3.

VEGETATION IN AFFECTED AREA: The majority of wetlands along the right-of-way in the project area are dominated by reed canary grass and nettles that transition into cattail areas. Willows are found along the perimeter.

SURROUNDING LAND USE: A variety of uses include sod and crop farming, rural residential, recreation areas associated with the Amateur Sports Center, Anoka County-Blaine Airport and some areas of light and heavy industry.

THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED BY THE APPLICANT: The applicant indicated that storm water management basins would be constructed in upland areas to treat runoff prior to discharge into waters or wetlands.

ALTERNATIVES: The applicant considered the no-build alternative to be unacceptable because it would not address the current issues of safety and traffic flow. Constructing a new road alignment was also not considered practicable because the expansion of the existing roadway would generally limit the wetland impacts to areas previously disturbed. Use of steeper slopes and a lower profile were measures used to minimize impacts.

MITIGATION: To offset the 6.39 acres of wetland loss associated with Parts 2 and 3 of this overall project, the County proposes that wetland credits be debited from the Board of Water and Soil Resources Road Replacement Program.

3. REPLIES/COMMENTS.

Interested parties are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections within 30 days of the date of this notice. These statements should bear upon the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the project and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes believed to be desirable. Comments received may be forwarded to the applicant.

Replies may be addressed to Regulatory Branch, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, 190 Fifth Street East, Saint Paul, MN 55101-1638.

Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, call Timothy J. Fell at the St. Paul office of the Corps, telephone number (651) 290-5360.

4. FEDERALLY-LISTED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE OR PLANTS OR THEIR CRITICAL HABITAT.

None were identified by the applicant or are known to exist in the permit area. However, Anoka County is within the known or historic range of the following Federally-listed threatened (T) and endangered (E) species:

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Species

Habitat

Bald eagle (T)

Breeding

Karner blue butterfly (E)

Savannas with wild lupine

This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

5. JURISDICTION.

This project comes under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers because many of the unnamed wetlands being impacted by the project are part of the tributary system to the Mississippi River, a navigable water of the United States.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY: This application will be reviewed according to the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 Code of Federal Regulations 230).

THE APPLICANT HAS STATED THAT THE FOLLOWING STATE, COUNTY, AND/OR LOCAL PERMITS HAVE BEEN APPLIED FOR/ISSUED: Coon Creek Watershed District; Rice Creek Watershed District; Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

6. STATE SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION.

Valid Section 404 permits cannot be issued for any activity unless state water quality certification for the activity is granted or waived pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The state Section 401 authority in Minnesota is the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The St. Paul District has provided this public notice and a copy of the applicant's Section 404 permit application form to the MPCA. If MPCA needs any additional information in order for the Section 401 application to be considered complete by MPCA, the MPCA has indicated that it will request such information from the applicant. It is the permit applicant's responsibility to ensure that the MPCA has received a valid, complete application for state Section 401 certification and to obtain a final Section 401 action from the MPCA.

The MPCA has indicated that this public notice serves as its public notice of the application for Section 401 water quality certification under Minnesota Rules Part 7001. The MPCA has also indicated that the time period provided by the Clean Water Act for it to take a final Section 401 action shall begin to commence upon the issuance date of this public notice unless the MPCA notifies both the St. Paul District and the permit applicant to the contrary, in writing, before the expiration date of this public notice.

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Any comments relative to MPCA actions concerning the activity proposed in this public notice must be sent before the expiration date of this public notice period to:

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Metro District - Attention 401 Certification
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194

Telephone (651) 297-8219

7. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL.

This public notice is being sent to the National Park Service, the State Archaeologist, and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to determine if there are known cultural resources which may be affected by the described work. Any unknown archaeological, scientific, or historical data could be lost or destroyed by the work described in the permit application. However, the latest version of the National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and no listed properties (known to be eligible for inclusion, or included in the Register) are located in the project area.

The SHPO has been contacted and has determined that no properties eligible for, or listed on, the National Register of Historic Places are within the area of potential effect for the project. SHPO file number 99-1648.

8. PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

9. PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the

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needs and welfare of the people. Environmental and other documents will be available for review in the St. Paul District Office.

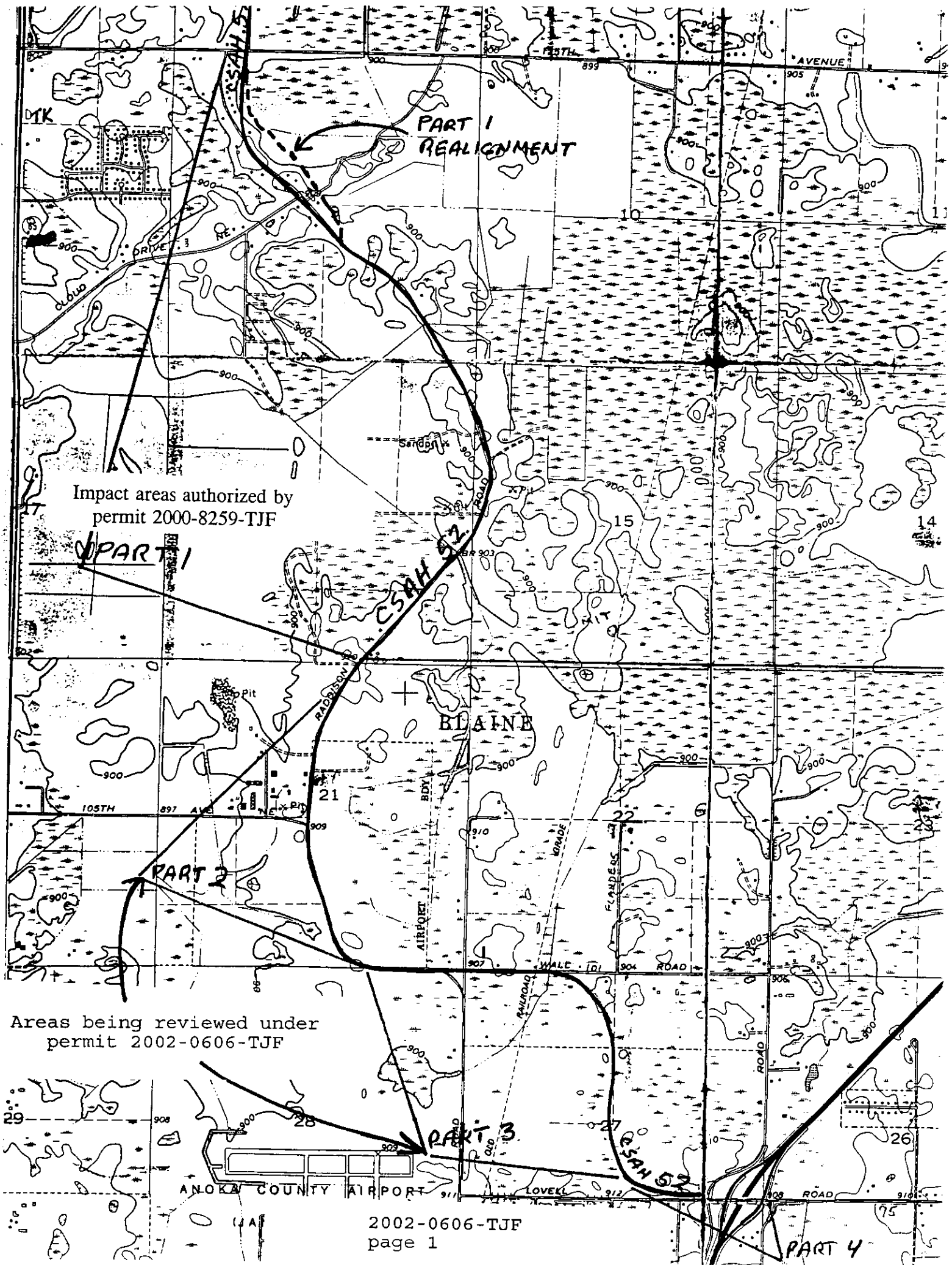
The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Enclosures



Ralph J. Augustin
Chief, Metro Permit Section

NOTICE TO EDITORS: This public notice is provided as background information and is not a request or contract for publication.

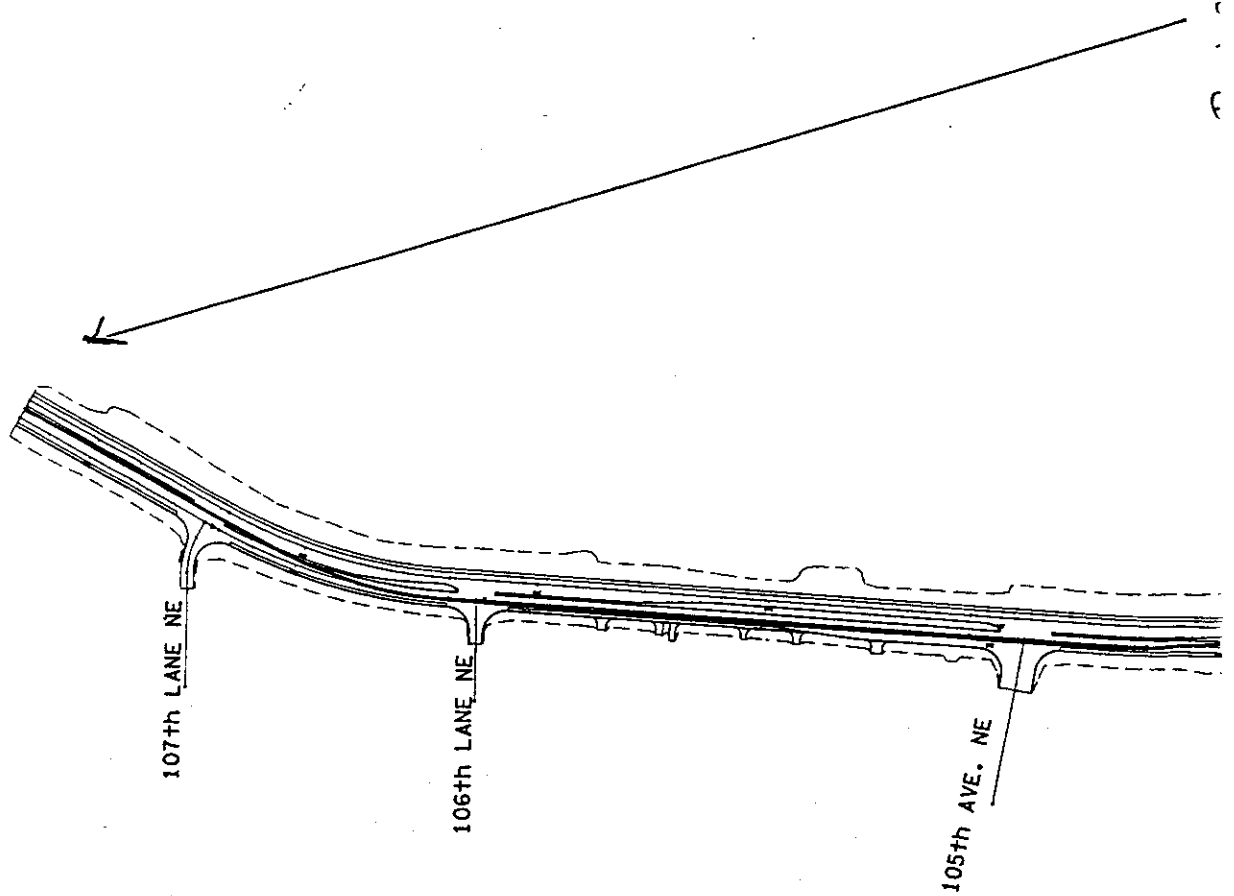


CSAH 52 Project

PART 2: CSAH 12 to Xylite St. NE

PART 3: Xylite St. NE to 95th Ave, NE

PART 4: 95th Ave. NE to east of I-35W
Interchange, and Park + Ride



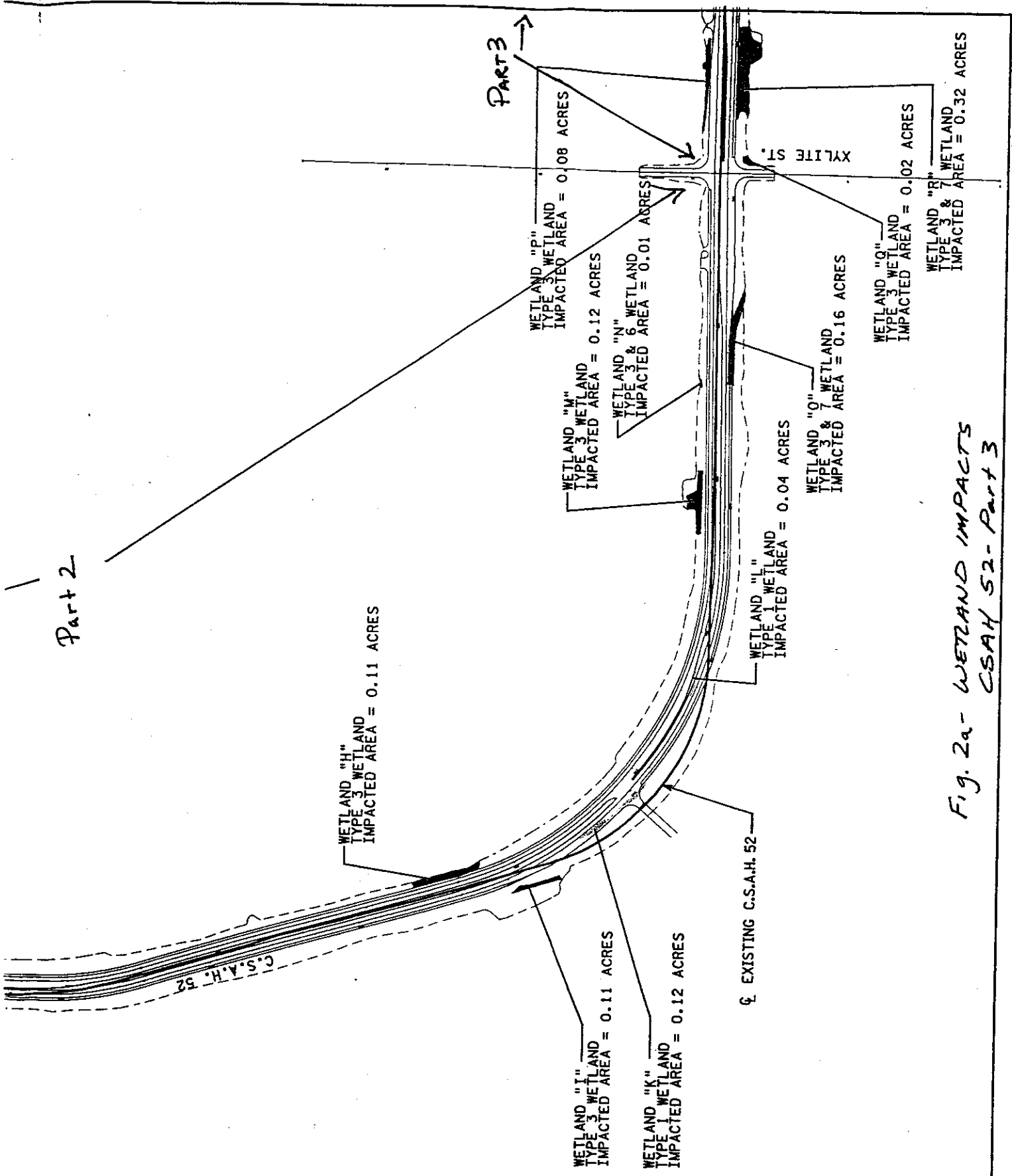
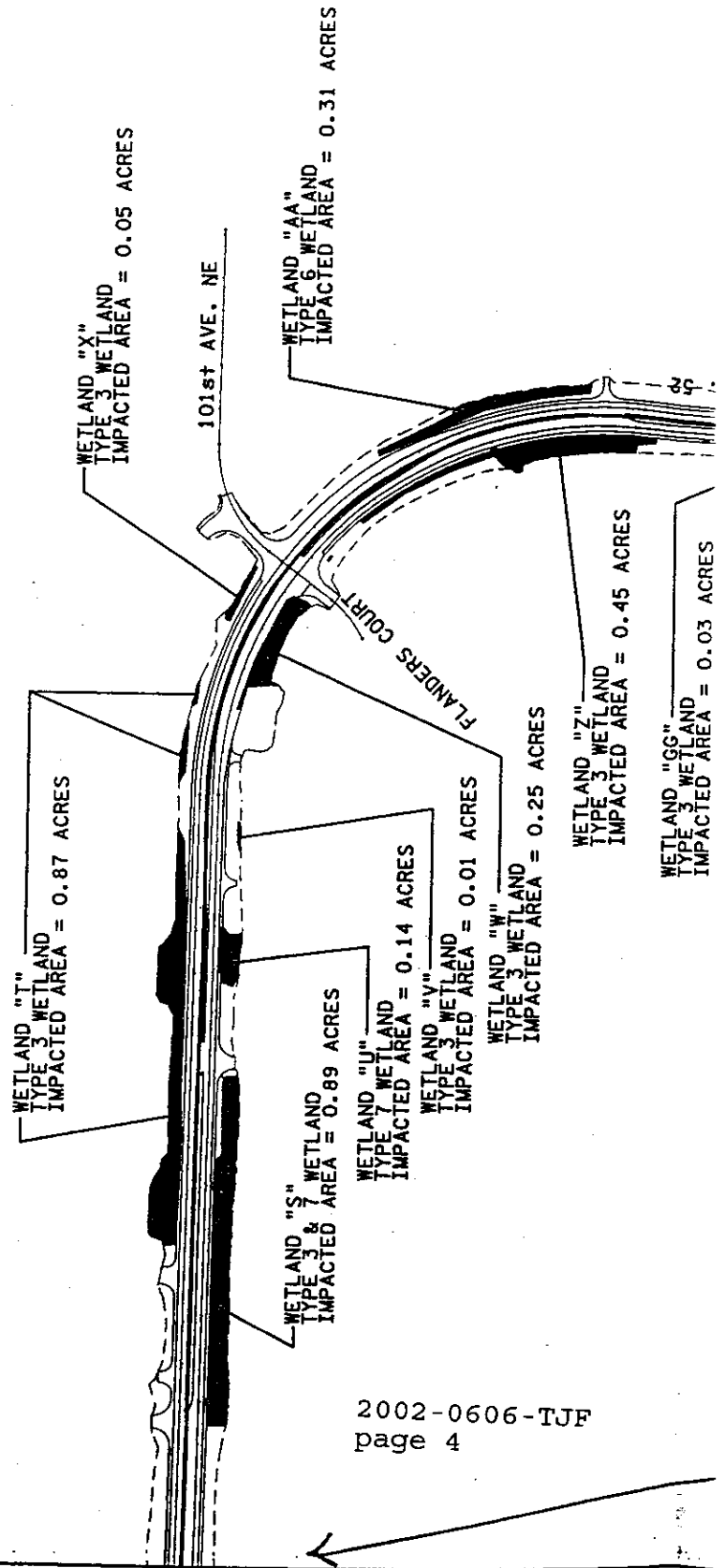
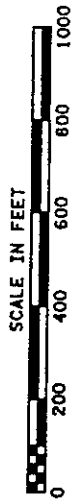


Fig. 2a- WETLAND IMPACTS
CSAH 52- Part 3



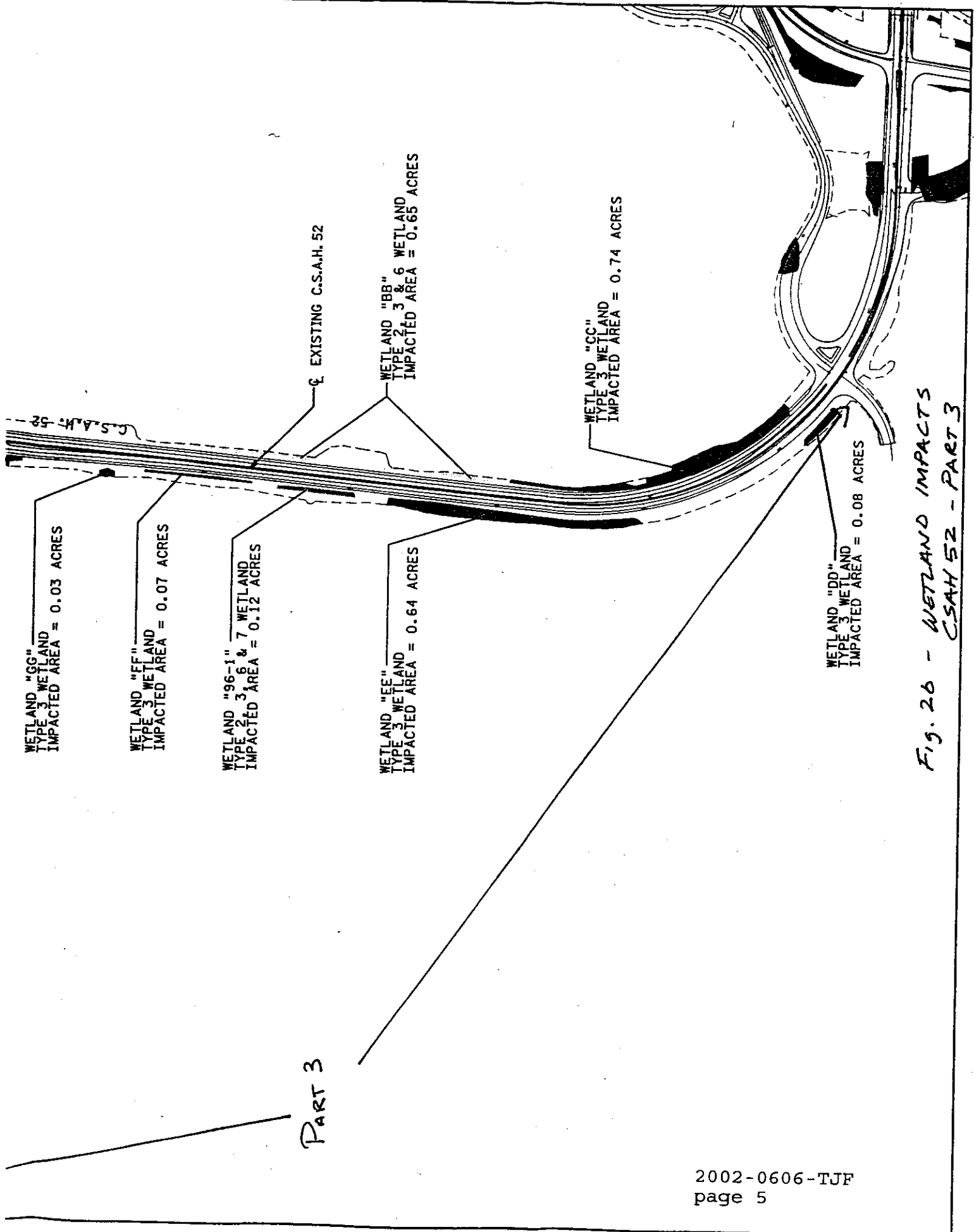


Fig. 26 - WETLAND IMPACTS
CSAH 52 - PART 3

